

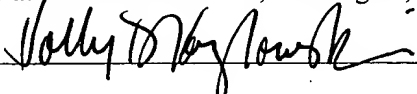
Docket No. 10806-120

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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Albert J. Pennings et al : Paper No.:

Serial No.: To be assigned : Group Art Unit:

Filing Date: April 10, 2001 : Examiner:

For: **Hydrogels and Methods for Their Production**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and first action by the Examiner, please amend the present application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 12, 15, 16, 19-23, 26-30, 32, 33 and 35-42 to read as follows:

1. (Amended) A hydrogel comprising a network of hydrophilic polymers having hydrogel group-carrying carbon to carbon backbones and having a tensile strength of at least 1 MPa.

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